

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



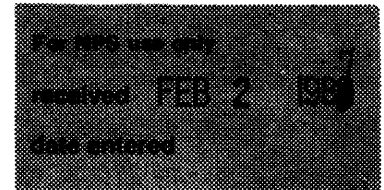
Continuation sheet Omohundro Waterworks System **Item number** 2

Page 2

- 1.) The Omohundro Water Filtration Complex District
Northeast of Omohundro Drive
- 2.) Eighth Avenue South Reservoir (NR 1978)
Eighth Avenue South
- 3.) Lebanon Road Stone Arch Bridge
Over Brown's Creek at Lebanon Road

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Omohundro Waterworks System Item number 7 Page 3

Non-contributing buildings on the Omohundro Water Filtration Complex District site include:

- The Office Building - ca. 1970, modern, rectangular one-story brick building with flat roof.
- The Classroom Building - ca. 1980, modern, metal building used for classes and education purposes.
- The Omohundro Water Filtration Complex District site also contains numerous modern chemical tanks at various locations. In addition, the site includes a Nashville Electric Service substation located 75 feet west of the Pumping Station surrounded by a chain link fence.
- The site also includes two Louisville and Nashville Railroad Company right-of-ways. One bisects the property running east and west. The other track runs above the complex on an elevated bridge running north and south.

Eighth Avenue South Reservoir (NR 1978)

Eighth Avenue South Reservoir (NR 1978) is located on Kirkpatrick's Hill, the former site of Fort Casino, used by Union troops in the Battle of Nashville in 1864. The reservoir, designed by City Engineer, J. A. Jowett, was under construction from August 24, 1887 to August 24, 1889. It cost \$364,500 to build.

The reservoir is elliptical in shape, with a major axis of 603 feet and a minor axis of 463.4 feet. Its walls, constructed of rubble faced with limestone ashlar quarried near the site, are 22.9 feet thick at the bottom, 8 feet thick at the top and 33.75 feet high. A red brick parapet runs around the top of the wall. The reservoir is divided in two by a wall along its minor axis. Originally, Cumberland River water was pumped into one side, where the mud settled out, and then into the other side for distribution.

Sitting atop the wall on the north side is a small brick and stone gatehouse. It is a picturesque building with Romanesque details executed in limestone which contrasts with the red brick. There is a small octagonal tower on the east side and rough faced stone outlines the round arched windows and forms quoins at the corner of the building. The apex of each of the building's six gables is adorned by a stone finial.

Lebanon Road Stone Arch Bridge

Built in 1888 to transport a 36 inch water main across Brown's Creek, as well as Lebanon Road traffic, the Lebanon Road Stone Arch Bridge is a single masonry arch, 40 feet in length, and 25 feet wide. At either end of the bridge are 33' 6" stepped wingwalls. The structure is composed of large rectangular coursed limestone of varying sizes. Smaller stones form a rail at the top of the bridge. The arch is lined with eight courses of common bond red brick. Abandoned by traffic in 1925 the bridge remains unaltered and continues to transport water as it was originally intended.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Continuation sheet Omohundro Waterworks System Item number 8 Page 2

the upper island would be sufficient. The filter gallery consisted of a cast iron cage, 152 feet long, 6 feet high, and 10 feet wide, and placed in the natural gravel beds of the upper island. (The upper island was adjacent to the pumping station; the southern channel has since been filled in.) While this system worked fairly well, it still permitted some silt to reach the reservoir. When the river was low, the city took its water essentially "unfiltered." With increases in population and demand, the system increased its capacity to 30 million gallons per day with the installation of two Worthington Pumps, one in 1891 and the second in 1893. Power for the pumps was provided from coalfired boilers and steam turbines. In 1892 an intake structure was completed 1700 feet upriver from the pumping station, thus eliminating the need for the filter gallery. With ever increasing demand the city replaced the boiler house with a larger structure in 1926. Built to house the steam boilers that powered the pumps, this building was converted to the control station in 1953 when the system switched to electric-powered equipment.

In 1929-30, the third building, the filtration plant, was erected with a capacity of 28 million gallons per day. Both the new boiler house and the filtration plant were designed by the Chester Engineers of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania and built by the Foster and Creighton Company of Nashville. Additions to the filtration building in 1932, 1953, and 1963, brought the capacity to its present level of 90 million gallons per day. Floridation of city water began in 1953.

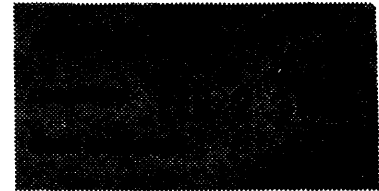
Lebanon Road Stone Arch Bridge

In 1888 the site of the new pumping plant was seen as an important factor in the quality of service it could provide. Prior to 1888 the old pumping plants had at times been hindered by river water with a high degree of muddiness. This was due primarily to water flowing from Brown's Creek into the Cumberland River. Brown's Creek was known to become very muddy after hard rains. The site for the new Pumping Plant therefore, would be above, or up-river from Brown's Creek. By locating at this site however, a new problem was created; how to transport the water across Brown's Creek in order to reach the new reservoir four miles away on Kirkpatrick's Hill. This was accomplished with the erection of a stone arch bridge which carried a 36 inch water main across Brown's Creek. The bridge also carried Lebanon Road traffic. The bridge was designed by J. A. Jowett, City Engineer and erected by the Foster and Creighton Company in 1888, one of the earliest commissions for that firm. The bridge was abandoned by traffic in 1925 when a new structure was completed to handle heavier demand. However, the bridge continues to support the 36 inch water main and still serves as the means for water to cross Brown's Creek to reach the reservoir.

Eighth Avenue South Reservoir (NR 1978)

Construction of a new 50 million gallon reservoir on Kirkpatrick's Hill on Eighth Avenue South, began in 1887 and was completed two years later in 1889. J. A. Jowett, City Engineer, designed the structure and the construction contract was awarded to Whitsett and Adams. The structure was designed with a 463 foot wall dividing the basin

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Omohundro Waterworks System Item number 10

Page 1

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Omohundro Water Filtration Complex District

Starting at a point on the Cumberland River and the eastern boundary of parcel 94-7-8, then running south and then southwest along the property line of parcel 94-7-8 to a point where it meets parcel 94-7-23. Then following the property line of parcel 94-7-23, denoted by a chainlink fence, south, then west, then northwest, to a point where it meets the Louisville and Nashville Railroad right-of-way. From that point the boundary runs due north to the bank of the Cumberland River, then along the bank of the river east to the starting point. Approximately 23 acres.

Intake Tower

The intake tower was an integral part of the waterworks system and its inclusion contributes substance to the nomination's theme. Because of its distance from the Omohundro Water Filtration Complex District it was included in a discontinuous manner. The intake tower stands in the Cumberland River 1700 feet east of the Omohundro Water Filtration Complex District. The tower is 50 feet from the river's south bank, adjacent to parcel 94-8-143. Less than 1 acre.

Eighth Avenue South Reservoir (NR 1978)

Eighth Avenue South Reservoir includes all of parcel 105-6-84.*

The Lebanon Road Stone Arch Bridge

The Lebanon Road Stone Arch Bridge include the bridge and its abutments, located just north of, and partially under the current Lebanon Road Bridge where it crosses Brown's Creek. Less than 1 acre.

The boundaries of this thematic nomination were chosen to include all the structures in the system and to accurately convey the sense of site and setting of the properties.

* This is a clarification of the boundary description of the Eighth Avenue South Reservoir and does not designate a change in the original boundary description of 17 acres.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Omohundro Waterworks System TR
State Davidson County, TENNESSEE

Nomination/Type of Review

Substantive Review *Cover* *A Schlager 5/13/87*

Date/Signature

1. Lebanon Road Stone Arch
Bridge

Keeper

A Schlager 5/13/87

Attest

2. Omohundro Water Filtration
Complex District

Keeper

A Schlager 5/13/87

Attest

3. Eighth Avenue South
Reservoir
(already listed 3-30-78)

Keeper

Attest

4.

Keeper

Attest

5.

Keeper

Attest

6.

Keeper

Attest

7.

Keeper

Attest

8.

Keeper

Attest

9.

Keeper

Attest

10.

Keeper

Attest